MARVEL
GOLDHEART'S
REIGN OF TERROR!
THE PUNISHER 2099
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HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD-FASHIONED PUNISHMENT ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT JAKE GALLOWS... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE PUBLIC EYE POLICE FORCE BY DAY. AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE PUNISHER 2099

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

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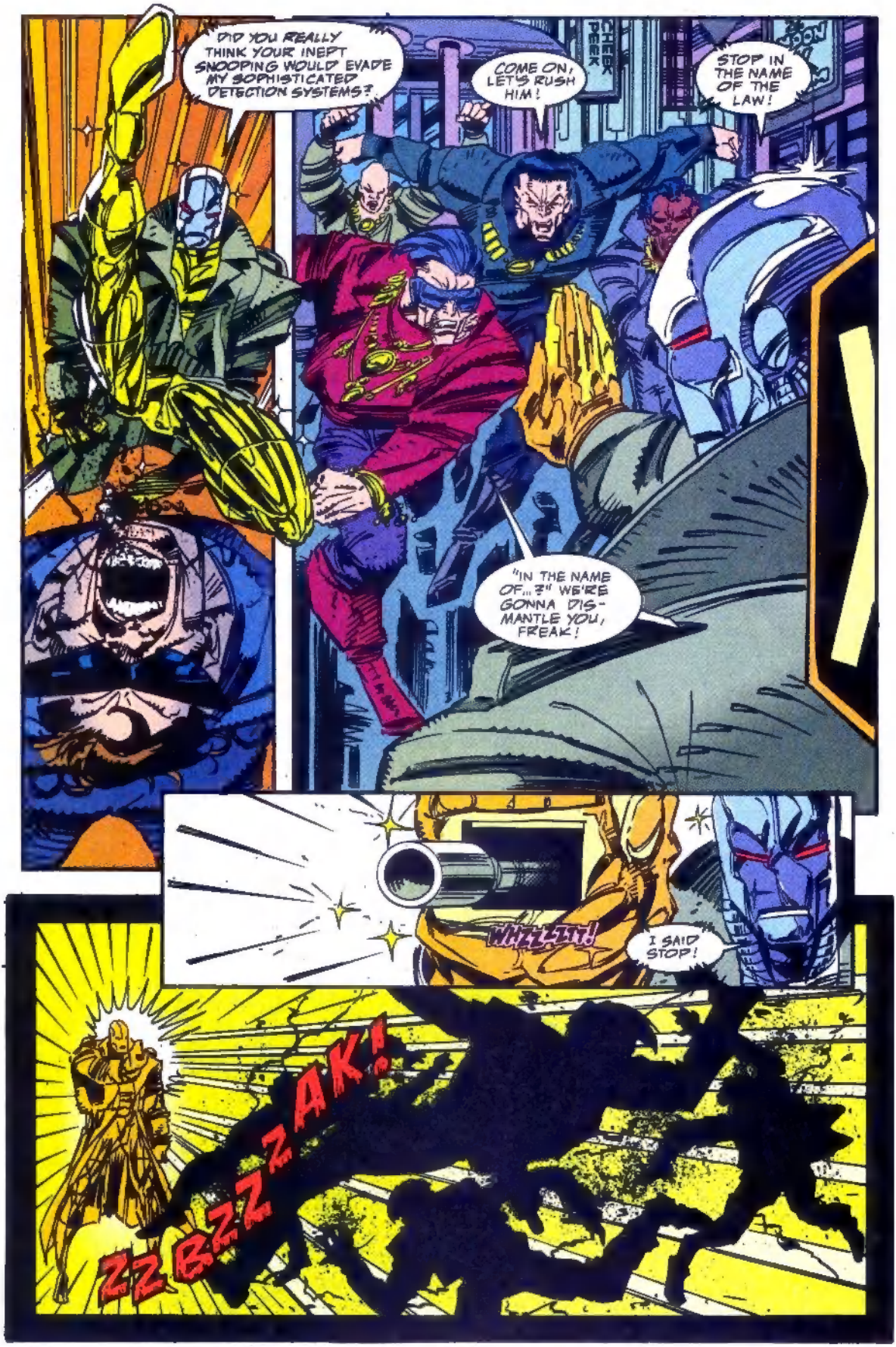
YOU SABOTAGED MY PLASMA GUN... I GUESS YOU CHANGED SIDES!
NO--FOR SHOCK'S SAKE, IF I'D WANTED YOU DEAD, I'D HAVE SABOTAGED ALL YOUR SYSTEMS!
I LEFT YOU EVERY-THING YOU NEEDED TO DEFEND YOUR-SELF... IT WAS ONLY THE PLASMA CANNON THAT COULD HAVE KILLED SABER.
YOU'RE LYING... AND I'M WASTING MY TIME!
GOODBYE, MATT!
NO... DON'T YOU SEE? I KNEW YOU'D COME OUT ALIVE... I-I KNOW YOU BOTH SO WELL.
PLEASE, JAKE... THINK! THIS IS ME... I'D NEVER BETRAY YOU, JAKE.
OKAY! THAT DOES IT! YOU DIE! THERE'S NO JAKE HERE...
...ONLY THE PUNISHER!

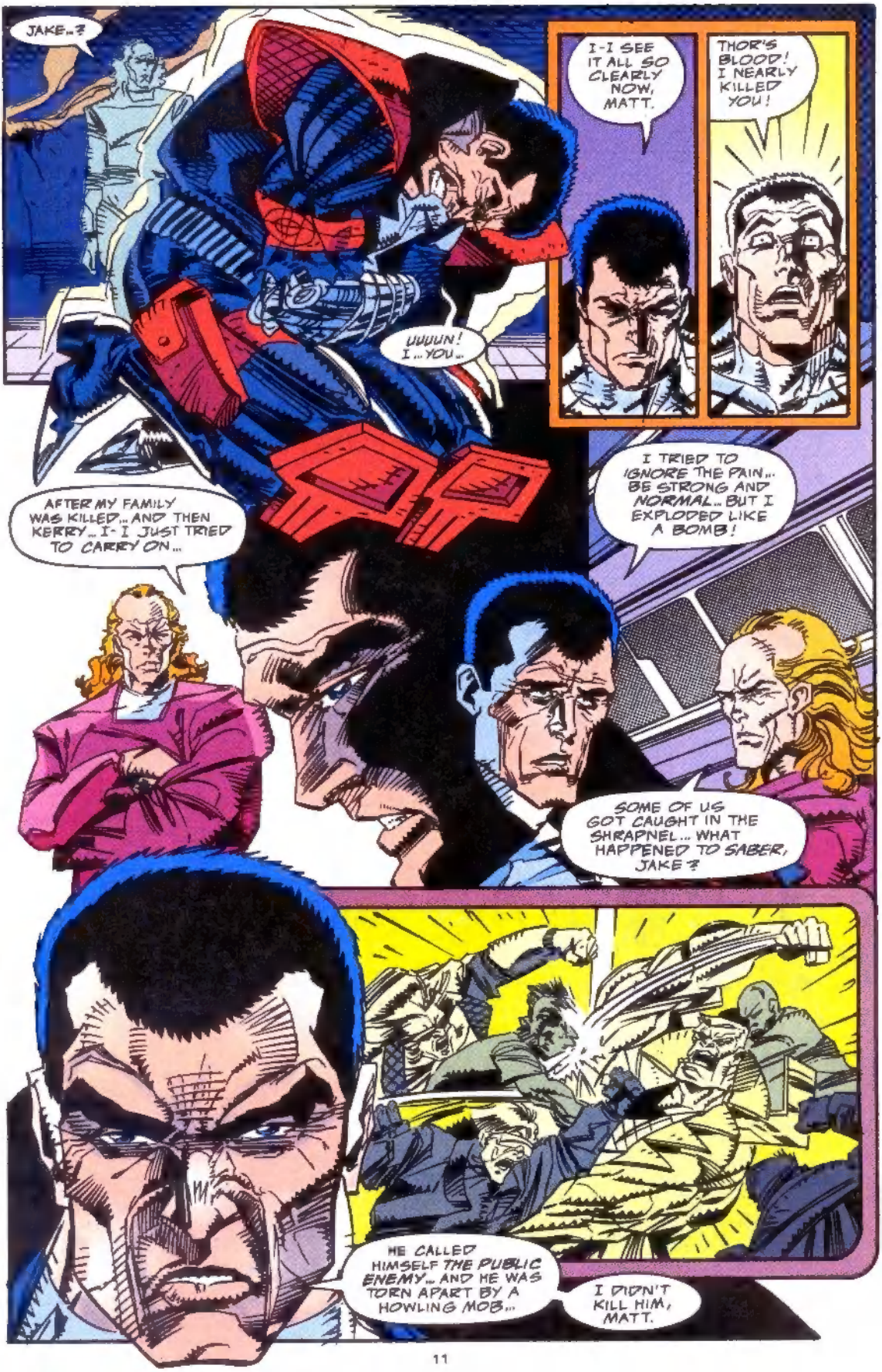
THERE HE IS... THE DIRTY 'CHINE--TRYIN' TO LOOK HUMAN. C'MON, TIME TO ROLL HIM...
...AND THE BEST PART IS--HE'S A PUBLIC EYE OFFICER.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, SKORCH? SOME OF THESE 'CHINES ARE AWFUL FAST 'N' STRONG.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU GONE CHICKEN ON ME? YOU GO BABYSIT FOR YOUR SISTER, WE'LL PICK UP THE BULLION!
'CAUSE I'M TELLIN' YOU, MAN... UNDER THAT COAT, MOST OF HIM'S MADE OF GOLD!
"I LIVE IN THE APARTMENT ABOVE... I'VE SEEN THE FREAK MELTIN' RINGS AND STUFF... HE'S PACKIN' MORE GOLD THAN ALL OF US PUT TOGETHER!"
GOIN' SOMEWHERE, 'CHINE?
GIRLS

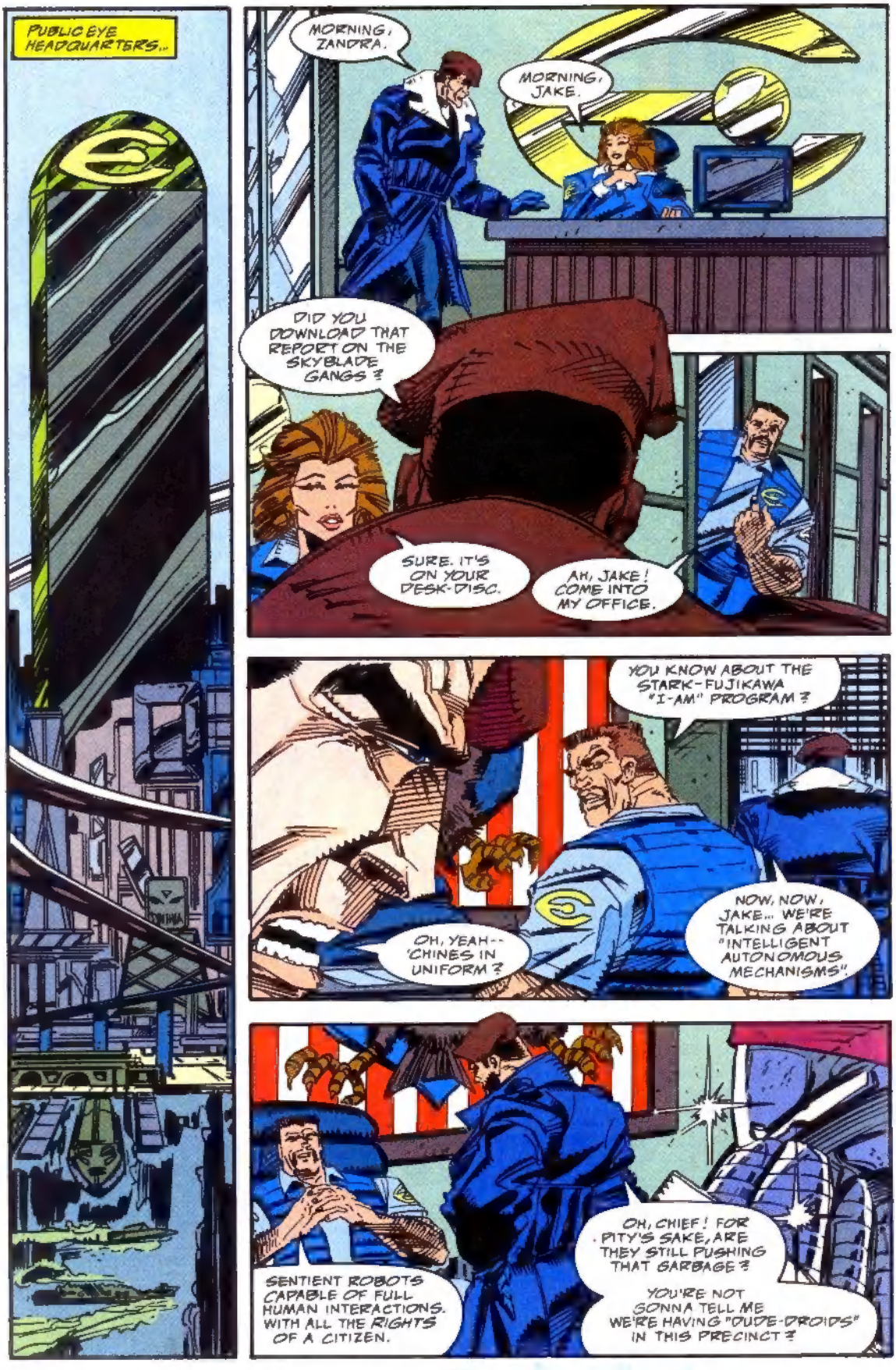
TWO IN FRONT, FIVE BEHIND... STANDARD STREET ATTACK PATTERN. I THOUGHT BETTER OF YOU, SKORCH.
WHAT...? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
PUBLIC EYE CRIMINAL FILE XJ46/L. "SKORCH" --REAL NAME ALBERT PENNINGS. I.Q. 87. FIRST OFFENSE SEVEN YEARS OLD. CREDIT CARD FRAUD...
SHUT UP! YOU GOLD FREAK!
UUGHK! MAKE HIM STOP, MAN!
SNAP!
I'D BEEN WAITING FOR YOU AND YOUR GANG TO MAKE A MOVE FOR SOME TIME...
POW!
...YOU SEE, IT'S ME THAT'S BEEN HUNTING YOU AND YOUR GOLD.


DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR INEPT SNOOPING WOULD EVADE MY SOPHISTICATED DETECTION SYSTEMS?
COME ON, LET'S RUSH HIM!
STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!
"IN THE NAME OF...?" WE'RE GONNA DISMANTLE YOU, FREAK!
WHZZZIT!
I SAID STOP!
ZZBZZZAK!

EXCELLENT. SENSORS INDICATE TARGETS POSSESS 1.3 KILOS OF 9 CARAT GOLD ... 0.87 KILOS OF 18 CARAT GOLD... 2.41 KILOS OF 24 CARAT GOLD...
SUFFICIENT TO REPLATE MY SPARE HEAD.
UUUHN! WWHA...?
YOUR RING, SNORCH... IT'S TWENTY-EIGHT CARAT... I MISSED IT ON MY INITIAL SCAN.
HMM. I CAN'T GET IT PAST YOUR KNUCKLE. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN WEARING IT A LONG TIME.
PLEASE... IT WAS MOM'S WEDDING RING.
SSSNIKT!
COME ON, 'CHINE... AT LEAST LET ME DIE WITH...
SNIP!
AAAAHH!

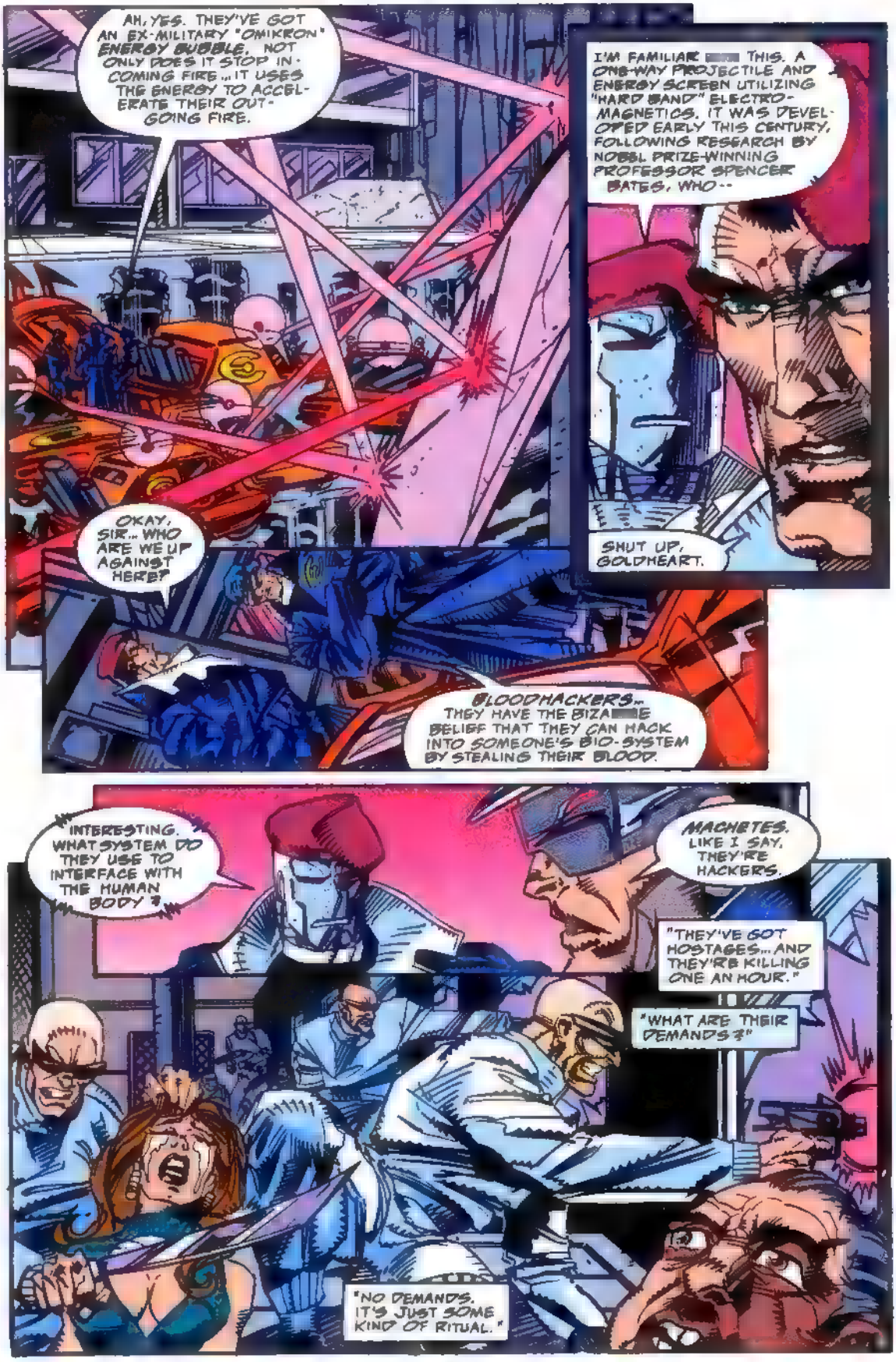
KLIK!
AAAAHG!
NO BULLETS! SABOTAGED AGAIN!
WELL, IT WASN'T ME THIS TIME!
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO BEAT YOU TO DEATH!
STOP, PUNISHER -- I UNLOADED YOUR GUN.
GET OUT OF MY HEAD, GALLOWS!
IT'S NOT YOUR HEAD -- YOU'RE NOT WHO I AM... YOU'RE WHAT I DO!
I'M TAKING BACK CONTROL.
NO! AAAUUGH!


JAKE..?
UUUUN! I...YOU..
I-I SEE IT ALL SO CLEARLY NOW, MATT.
THOR'S BLOOD! I NEARLY KILLED YOU!
I TRIED TO IGNORE THE PAIN.. BE STRONG AND NORMAL.. BUT I EXPLODED LIKE A BOMB!
AFTER MY FAMILY WAS KILLED.. AND THEN KERRY.. I-I JUST TRIED TO CARRY ON...
SOME OF US GOT CAUGHT IN THE SHRAPNEL... WHAT HAPPENED TO SABER, JAKE?
HE CALLED HIMSELF THE PUBLIC ENEMY.. AND HE WAS TORN APART BY A HOWLING MOB...
I DIDN'T KILL HIM, MATT.

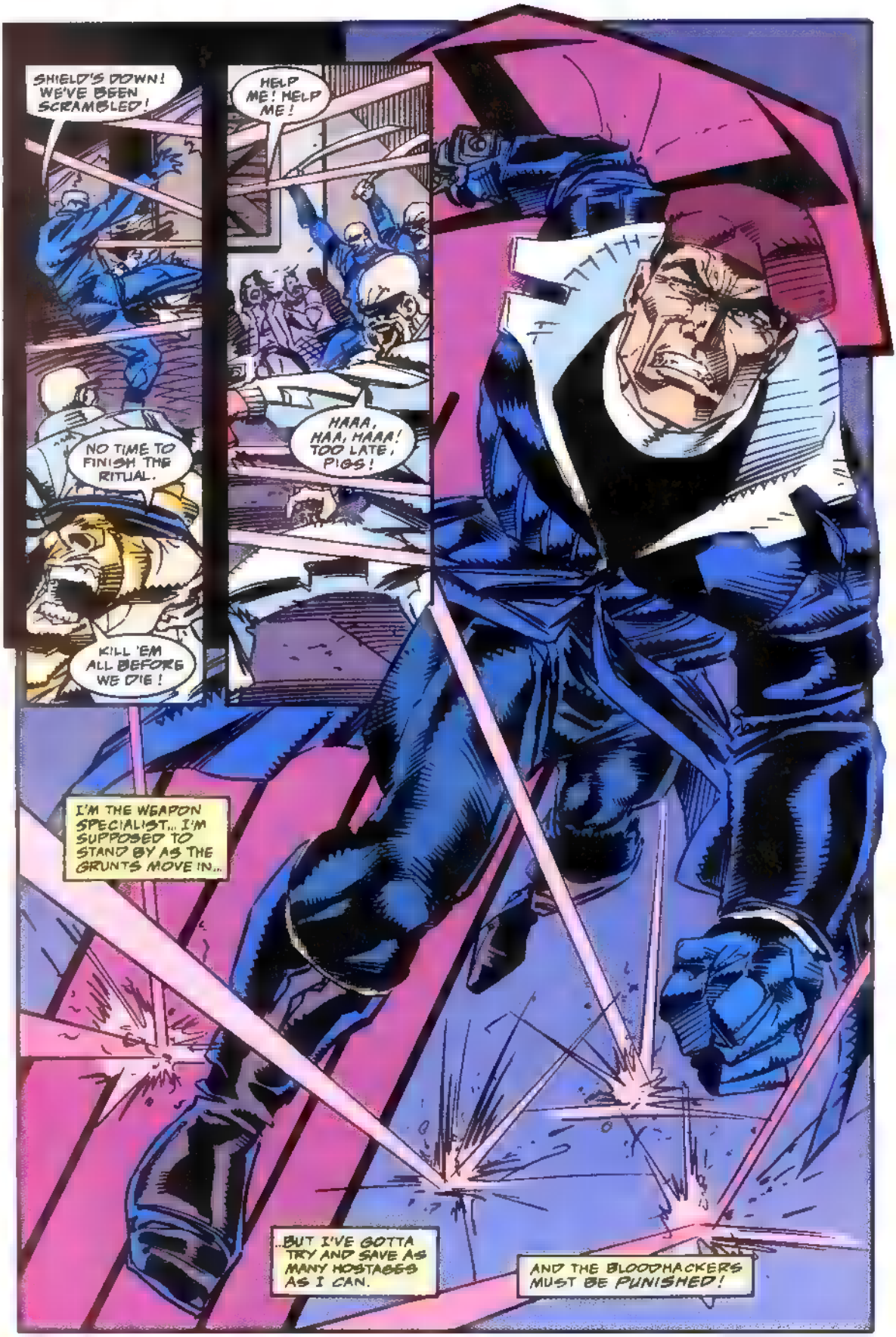

PUBLIC EYE HEADQUARTERS...
MORNING, ZANDRA.
MORNING, JAKE.
DID YOU DOWNLOAD THAT REPORT ON THE SKYBLADE GANGS?
SURE. IT'S ON YOUR DESK-DISC.
AH, JAKE! COME INTO MY OFFICE.
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STARK-FUJIKAWA "I-AM" PROGRAM?
OH, YEAH-- 'CHINES IN UNIFORM?
NOW, NOW, JAKE... WE'RE TALKING ABOUT "INTELLIGENT AUTONOMOUS MECHANISMS".
SENTIENT ROBOTS CAPABLE OF FULL HUMAN INTERACTIONS. WITH ALL THE RIGHTS OF A CITIZEN.
OH, CHIEF! FOR PITY'S SAKE, ARE THEY STILL PUSHING THAT GARBAGE?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME WE'RE HAVING "DUDE-DROIDS" IN THIS PRECINCT?

NO, [redacted] NOT. YOU ARE. I WANT YOU TO MEET YOUR NEW PARTNER.
THIS IS OFFICER GOLDHEART.
GOOD MORNING, OFFICER GALLOWS. YOUR CONCERN IS UNDERSTANDABLE... BUT I'M SURE THAT ONCE WE WORK TOGETHER AND YOU WITNESS MY OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS...
...OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL BECOME BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT, EVEN FRIENDSHIP.
NOW THAT'S ENOUGH, JAKE... I'M WARNING YOU... YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE A STUPID 'CHINIST!
THE MACHINE RELATIONS ACT WAS WRITTEN FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
YEAH, SURE ...I LOVE YOU RIGHT BACK.
LISTEN, CHIEF. I'M NOT WORKING WITH THIS TIN CAN...
OKAY... OKAY... GO EASY WITH THE BOOK...
COME ON, CLANKY. LET'S HIT THE STREETS.
"CLANKY"... NICKNAME NOTED. I'LL ADD IT TO MY FILES.

LATER...
IT'S NO USE! NOTHING'S GETTING THROUGH THAT SHIELD!
WHY DON'T WE TRY HEAVY ARTILLERY?
BECAUSE THIS IS AN URBAN AREA--NOT A WAR ZONE.
"I'VE CALLED IN THE SPECIAL WEAPONS GUYS."
UPTOWN
I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CRITICISMS OF MY PERFORMANCE, JAKE. I REALLY WANT TO DO WELL IN THIS JOB... AND PROVE MYSELF WORTHY TO WEAR THE PUBLIC EYE BADGE.
WORTHY TO WEAR...? GET REAL, GOLD-HEART.
OFFICER GALLOWS AND... ER... MY PARTNER, I GUESS. OFFICER GOLDHEART.
WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN?
THEY'VE GOT SOME KIND OF ENERGY FIELD... IT STOPS OUR FIRE GOING IN... BUT THEY CAN SHOOT OUT EASY ENOUGH.


AH, YES. THEY'VE GOT AN EX-MILITARY "OMIKRON" ENERGY BUBBLE. NOT ONLY DOES IT STOP INCOMING FIRE... IT USES THE ENERGY TO ACCELERATE THEIR OUTGOING FIRE.
I'M FAMILIAR [redacted] THIS. A ONE-WAY PROJECTILE AND ENERGY SCREEN UTILIZING "HARD BAND" ELECTROMAGNETICS. IT WAS DEVELOPED EARLY THIS CENTURY, FOLLOWING RESEARCH BY NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING PROFESSOR SPENCER BATES, WHO--
SHUT UP, GOLDHEART.
OKAY, SIR... WHO ARE WE UP AGAINST HERE?
BLOODHACKERS... THEY HAVE THE BIZA[redacted]E BELIEF THAT THEY CAN HACK INTO SOMEONE'S BIO-SYSTEM BY STEALING THEIR BLOOD.
INTERESTING. WHAT SYSTEM DO THEY USE TO INTERFACE WITH THE HUMAN BODY?
MACHETES. LIKE I SAY, THEY'RE HACKERS.
"THEY'VE GOT HOSTAGES... AND THEY'RE KILLING ONE AN HOUR."
"WHAT ARE THEIR DEMANDS?"
"NO DEMANDS. IT'S JUST SOME KIND OF RITUAL."

WE'VE THROWN EVERYTHING AT THAT SHOCKIN' SCREEN AND IT'S HELD. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
HAVE YOU TRIED SWITCHING IT OFF?
YOU BEING SMART WITH ME, GALLOWS?
NOT AT ALL, SIR. WHAT YOU NEED IS--
--A BIPOLAR SCRAMBLER PLACED AT OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ENEMY DOME. IT WILL NEGATE--
GOLDHEART--JUST GO BACK TO THE VEHICLE AND FETCH IT... THERE'S A GOOD TIN CAN!
OKAY... IS YOUR SCRAMBLER IN POSITION, GOLDHEART?
RIGHT--ON MY MARK...
HIT IT!
SCREEN'S DOWN! HIT 'EM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!


SHIELD'S DOWN! WE'VE BEEN SCRAMBLED!
HELP ME! HELP ME!
NO TIME TO FINISH THE RITUAL.
HAAA, HAA, HAAA! TOO LATE, PIGS!
KILL 'EM ALL BEFORE WE DIE!
I'M THE WEAPON SPECIALIST... I'M SUPPOSED TO STAND BY AS THE GRUNTS MOVE IN...
...BUT I'VE GOTTA TRY AND SAVE AS MANY HOSTAGES AS I CAN.
AND THE BLOODHACKERS MUST BE PUNISHED!

OFFICER GALLOWS! YOU'RE IGNORING OUR DIRECTIVES - WE MUST NOT PHYSICALLY INTERACT WITH THE FELONS, AND FURTHERMORE --
NOT NOW, GOLDHEART! I'M BUSY!
SUCK LEAD, JERK-FACE!
YOU KNOW THE ROUTINE, OFFICER... LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPON OR HER HEAD GETS VENTILATION!
SHOOT HIM, OFFICER! I'M NOT STUPID -- HE'S GOING TO KILL ME ANY-HOW!
I'LL LAY IT DOWN... BUY HER SOME TIME...

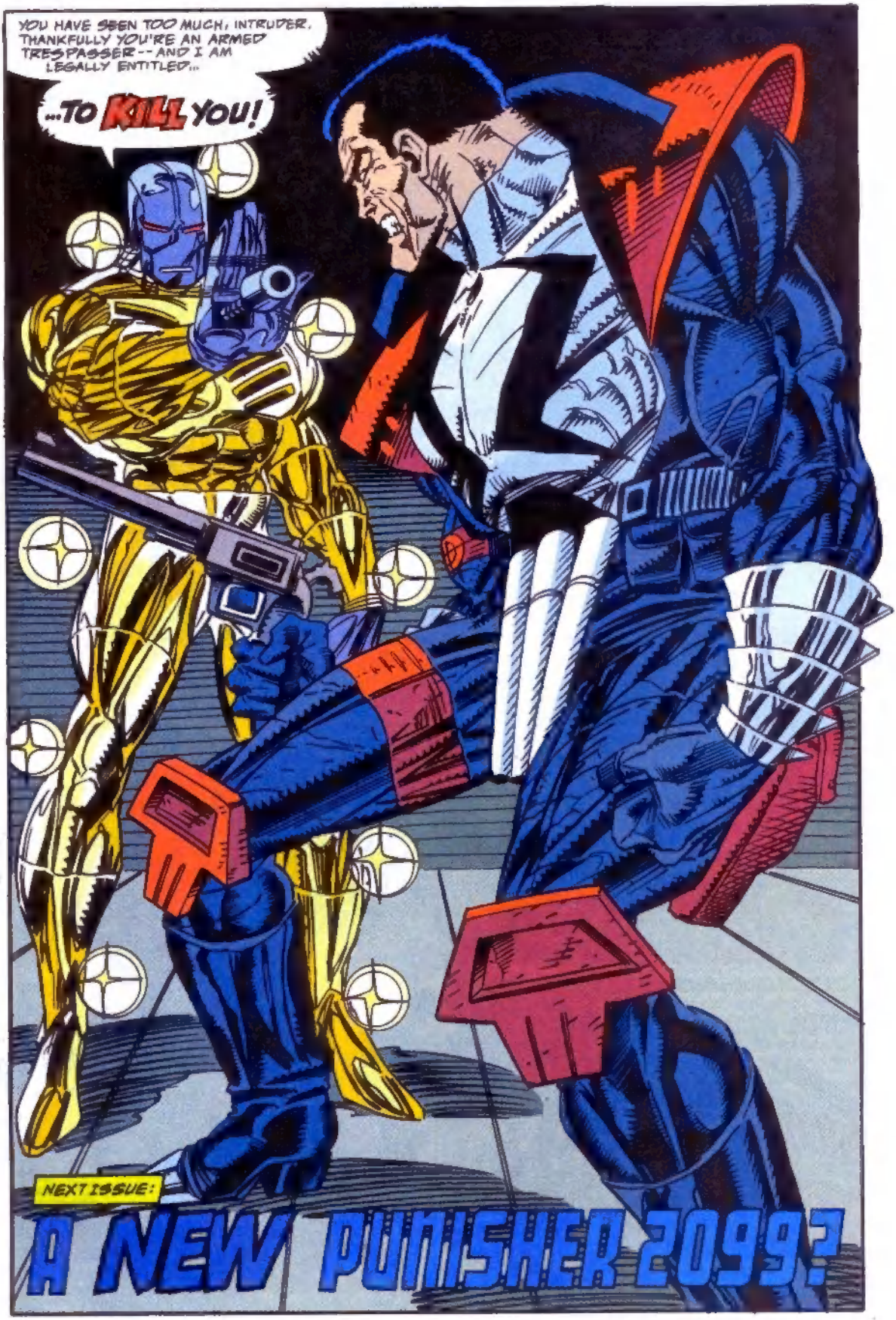
...AND THEN RUSH THIS SCUM.
UGHHH!
GOTTA MAKE THIS QUICK... BEFORE THE OTHERS..
...SHOW UP.
HEAR THAT CAPACITOR CLICK? FULLY CHARGED.
KLIK!
WE'RE GONNA TAKE YOUR BLOOD!
KEEP THE OTHER PIGS BACK, LENNI... JUST LONG ENOUGH TO DO THESE TWO PROPERLY.

BORN OF BLOOD, AND IN THE NAME OF BLOOD, FROM YOU WE TAKE YOUR BLOOD. LET THE RED RIVER OF TRUTH FLOW FREE..
YOU MEN--STOP IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!
OH, NO! GOLDHEART! YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A GUN!
BZZZT!
ZZZT!
ZZT!
ZZT!
AIIEEEEE
ODIN ALMIGHTY! THAT'S SOME WEAPON!
YOU--YOU JUST SAVED MY LIFE!
YES NOT BAD FOR A TIN CAN

LOOKS LIKE YOU TOOK SOME SHELLS BACK THERE, BUDDY...
MIND YOU, YOU 'CHINES ARE MADE OF PRETTY TOUGH...
WHAT IS THIS...? IT LOOKS LIKE GOLD!
NO WONDER YOU'RE SCORED UP... GOLD'S SOFT ... YOU'RE COVERED IN THE STUFF!
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS--?
WITH RESPECT, OFFICER GALLOWS, THIS IS NOT PERTINENT TO OUR JOB.
COME ON, GOLDHEART... WHAT'S GOING DOWN HERE?
WHAT I DO WITH MY TIME... MONEY... AND BODY... IS NO AFFAIR OF YOURS.
I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT UNDER THE MACHINE RELATIONS ACT I AM ENTITLED TO PRIVACY...
HE'S TOUCHY... BUT HE'S GOT A POINT... IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
AND I'VE GOT ENOUGH REAL PROBLEMS TO WORRY ABOUT... MATT'S REALLY HURTING OVER THE DEATH OF THE PUBLIC ENEMY.
... AND I HEREBY TERMINATE THIS CONVERSATION.

I REALLY ENJOY THESE TRAINING SESSIONS - IT GETS ALL THE WORRY OUT OF MY HEAD...
BUT MATT'S BEING SO STUBBORN ... IF ONLY HE'D TALK ABOUT IT. HE'S GONE QUIET ON ME.
MATT... ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND? IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.
GUERRILLA WARFARE SEQUENCE STOP.
FROM NOW ON YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
I'M SORRY, JAKE. I'VE HEARD WHAT YOU SAID. I CAN FORGIVE, BUT I CAN'T FORGET.
YOU KNOW HOW EVERY-THING WORKS BY NOW... I'VE SHOWN YOU OFTEN ENOUGH. OH, BY THE WAY... HERE'S THE LAST THING I WAS WORKING ON...
...A POSSIBLE PUNISHER TARGET. THE MEDIA ARE CALLING HIM THE GOLD GHOUL...
...SOME FREAK STEALING GOLD OFF DISASTER VICTIMS...
...SEEMS HE SLAUGHTERED A NEW FIFTH AVENUE GANG CALLED THE GOLDEN BOYS.

SOON AS I HEARD THE GOLD MURDERS WERE IN THE NEW FIFTH AVENUE AREA, I THOUGHT OF GOLDHEART.
'CHINESS MAY HAVE RIGHTS, BUT THEY ONLY GET TO LIVE IN REALLY BAD AREAS LIKE NEW FIFTH...
HE'S UP THERE ON THE TENTH FLOOR.
AS A COLLEAGUE, I CAN'T GO SNOOPING ON HIM...
THOOM!
SPAKK!
...BUT AS THE PUNISHER I CAN CHECK HIM OUT.


YOU HAVE SEEN TOO MUCH, INTRUDER. THANKFULLY YOU'RE AN ARMED TRESPASSER -- AND I AM LEGALLY ENTITLED...
...TO KILL YOU!
NEXT ISSUE:
A NEW PUNISHER 2099?